

MARRIAGE
ARRIAGE
JULY
1954
NO. 8

My Secret

10¢
A.M.C.



MARRIAGE



*Just a Good-Time Gal
Learning To Love
Suspicious Kisses*

Nancy Drake... PERSONAL HEART PROBLEMS

IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM



THE SAVIOR

Hands move as if giving a Blessing Eyes piously close and open The Flaming Heart and Stained Window present an air of Holiness Truly a spiritual exaltation



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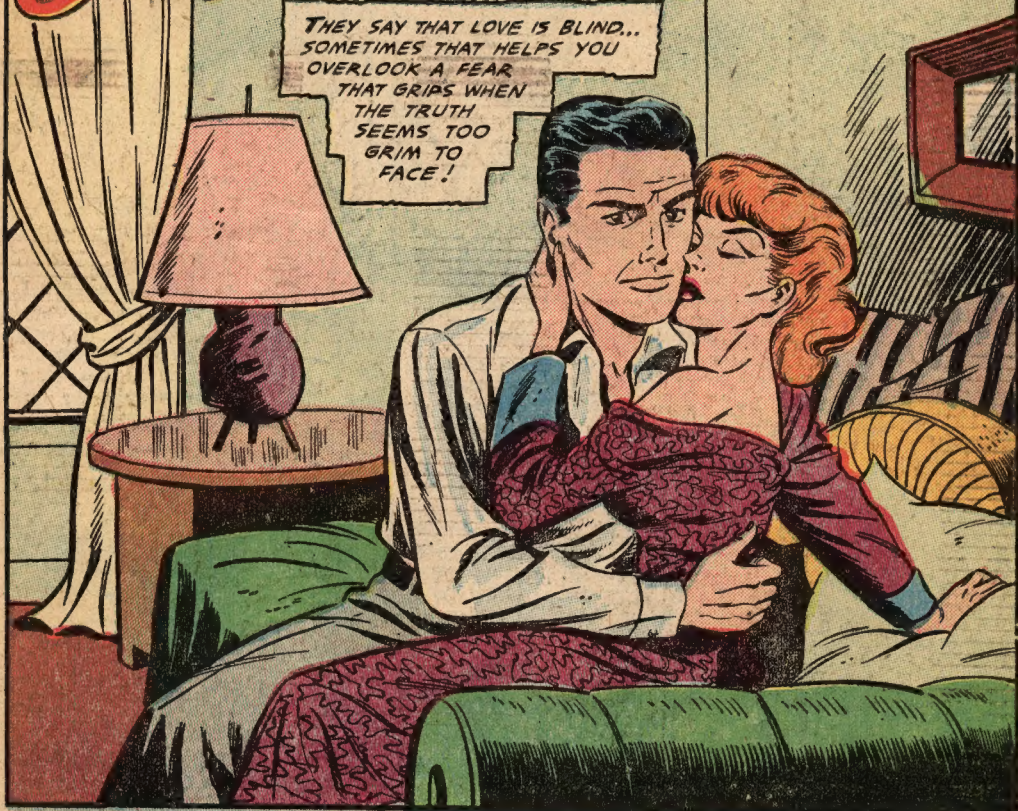
MAIL COUPON

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Suspicious Kisses

THEY SAY THAT LOVE IS BLIND...
SOMETIMES THAT HELPS YOU
OVERLOOK A FEAR
THAT GRIPS WHEN
THE TRUTH
SEEMS TOO
GRIM TO
FACE!

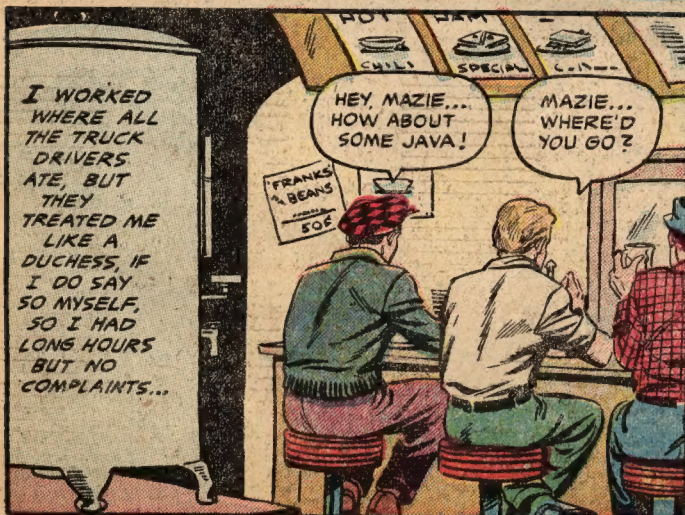


I WORKED
WHERE ALL
THE TRUCK
DRIVERS
ATE, BUT
THEY
TREATED ME
LIKE A
DUCHESS, IF
I DO SAY
SO MYSELF,
SO I HAD
LONG HOURS
BUT NO
COMPLAINTS...

HEY, MAZIE...
HOW ABOUT
SOME JAVA!

MAZIE...
WHERE'D
YOU GO?

FRANK'S
& BEANS
50¢



EASY DOES IT, FELLAS!
HERE I AM... NOW
WHO ORDERED
WHAT?



IT WAS A SIMPLE LIFE...NO COMPLICATIONS. I SELDOM DATED ANY OF THE CUSTOMERS, BUT ONE DAY...

WHAT'S THE SPECIALTY OF THE HOUSE, MISS? I'M ONE HUNGRY CHARACTER!

YOU'RE NEW IN THESE PARTS. I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE!



AFTER HIS MEAL, HE MADE IT A POINT TO BID ME GOODBYE...

SEE YOU AGAIN ON THE NEXT TRIP...

I HOPE SO... GOODBYE... ALEX!



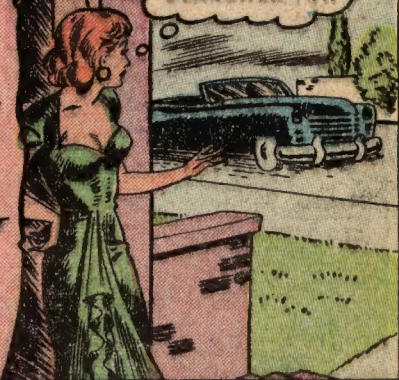
I DID SEE ALEX AGAIN AND AGAIN... ONE TIME HE ASKED ME FOR A DATE, AND IN SECRET EXCITEMENT I ACCEPTED... THAT NIGHT, WHEN HE CAME TO PICK ME UP I STARED IN ASTONISHMENT AT THE EXPENSIVE CAR HE WAS DRIVING...

ALEX JAMES...I'M WITH THE ACME LINES. NEW OUTFIT...EVER HEAR OF THEM?

NO. BUT GOOD LUCK... THEY'LL NEED IT WITH ALL THE COMPETITION OF THIS ROUTE...

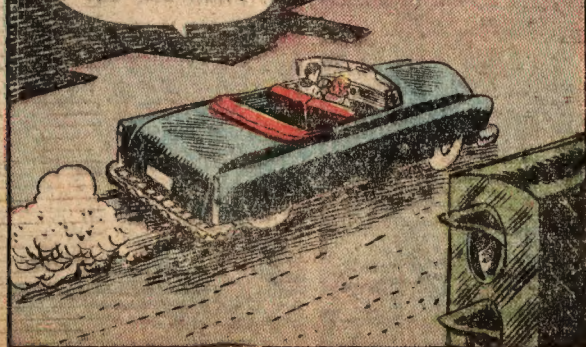


GOSH! WHERE'D HE EVER GET A CAR LIKE THAT ON THE MONEY HE MAKES! OH, I SUPPOSE HE BORROWED IT...



HOW ABOUT A NIGHT CLUB? GUESS THE BLUE STAR IS THE BEST PLACE IN TOWN, ISN'T IT? WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?

SURE...BUT IT'S AWFULLY EXPENSIVE, ALEX...



IT'S ONLY MONEY! THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT COMES FROM. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MONEY...

I DON'T GET IT...A TRUCK DRIVER...





EVERYTHING WAS VERY ELEGANT... AND ALEX CERTAINLY DIDN'T ACT LIKE THE ROUGH AND TUMBLE TYPE FELLOWS I WAS USED TO TALKING TO AT THE DINER...

CHECK, PLEASE...

YES, SIR...



EVEN THOUGH IT WAS OUR FIRST DATE, I DIDN'T STOP ALEX AS HE PUT HIS ARMS AROUND ME...

MAZIE... IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL NIGHT... THANKS...

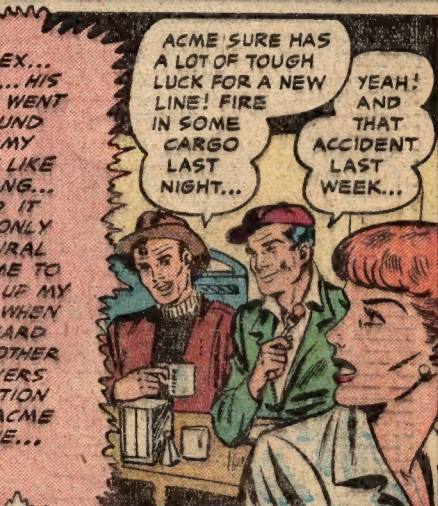
THANK YOU...



I'M FALLING IN LOVE! SO SOON... WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

GOODNIGHT... DEAR...

ALEX... ALEX... HIS NAME WENT AROUND IN MY HEART LIKE A SONG... AND IT WAS ONLY NATURAL FOR ME TO PICK UP MY EARS WHEN I HEARD THE OTHER DRIVERS MENTION THE ACME LINE...



ACME SURE HAS A LOT OF TOUGH LUCK FOR A NEW LINE! FIRE IN SOME CARGO LAST NIGHT...

YEAH! AND THAT ACCIDENT LAST WEEK...



THE OWNER OF THE RED DEVIL LINE DOESN'T LIKE ANY COMPETITION! WONDER IF HE'S AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS?

WHO KNOWS? HE'D HAVE TO PLANT A SMART BOY WITH THE ACME LINE, AND THAT AIN'T EASY...



I CERTAINLY HOPE ALEX ISN'T INVOLVED IN ANY OF THIS... AND THAT HE DOESN'T GET INTO ANY TROUBLE... OR HURT...



MARRY ALEX! THIS IS WHAT I DREAMED ABOUT...

WE COULD TAKE A SMALL APARTMENT HERE IN TOWN FOR A WHILE... LATER WE CAN MOVE OUT TO MY PLACE IN GREENSVILLE...

WHO CARES WHERE WE LIVE AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER...



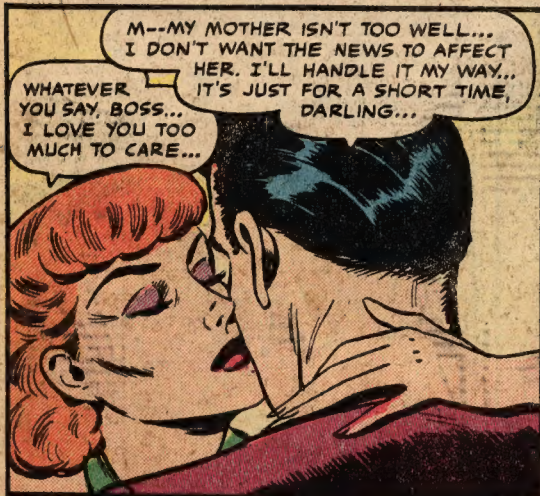
AND MAZIE...WOULD YOU MIND IF WE KEPT IT A SECRET FOR A WHILE...I HAVE A REASON...

A SECRET? BUT WHY, DARLING?



M--MY MOTHER ISN'T TOO WELL... I DON'T WANT THE NEWS TO AFFECT HER. I'LL HANDLE IT MY WAY... IT'S JUST FOR A SHORT TIME, DARLING...

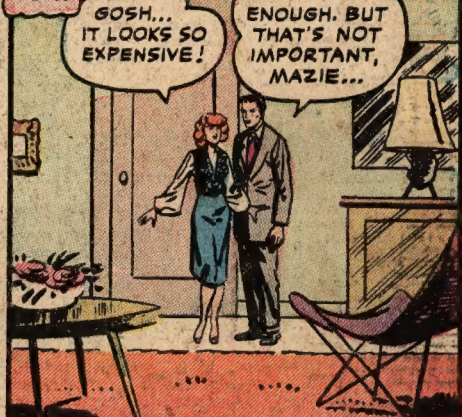
WHATEVER YOU SAY, BOSS... I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH TO CARE...



AFTER WE WERE MARRIED, ALEX TOOK ME TO THE APARTMENT HE RENTED FOR US...

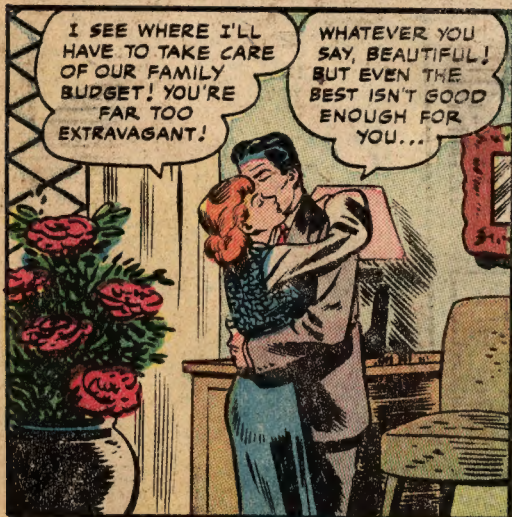
GOSH... IT LOOKS SO EXPENSIVE!

ENOUGH. BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT, MAZIE...



I SEE WHERE I'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF OUR FAMILY BUDGET! YOU'RE FAR TOO EXTRAVAGANT!

WHATEVER YOU SAY, BEAUTIFUL! BUT EVEN THE BEST ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU...



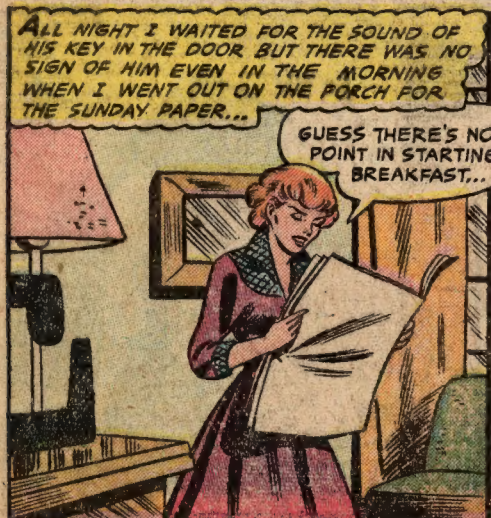
EVERYTHING WILL BE PERFECT... AS SOON AS YOU TELL YOUR MOTHER. I FEEL FUNNY ABOUT THAT, ALEX!

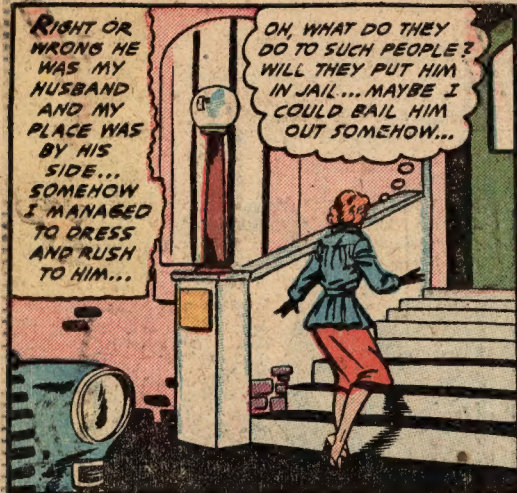
IF YOU'LL JUST BE PATIENT FOR A LITTLE WHILE, BABY...





MY SECRET MARRIAGE





OH, WHAT DO THEY DO TO SUCH PEOPLE? WILL THEY PUT HIM IN JAIL... MAYBE I COULD BAIL HIM OUT SOMEHOW...



RECORDS

MAZIE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



The End



SIS WAS FIVE YEARS OLDER THAN I, AND SHE TOOK OVER THE JOB OF BRINGING ME UP AFTER WE LOST OUR PARENTS. I DEPENDED ON JULIA FOR EVERYTHING. SHE WAS ALWAYS DOING THINGS FOR ME BUT I SORT OF EXPECTED IT, I GUESS...

GEE, IT FITS SWELL! THIS COLOR IS FOR ME, ISN'T IT, JULIE...

I'M GLAD IT FITS! I HAD SOME TIME WITH THE FOLDS IN THAT SKIRT. IT TOOK HOURS. IF YOU'D GET A JOB, BETH...

ARE YOU GOING TO START THAT AGAIN? AFTER ALL, I'M JUST OUT OF SCHOOL! DON'T I DESERVE SOME KIND OF A REST?

BUT YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITY IN LIFE, DEAR!



I ALWAYS HAD DATES TO SPARE, SO THAT PARTICULAR NIGHT WAS NO EXCEPTION...

THIS IS JULIE, FRED!

HOW DO YOU DO, MISS...

HELLO, JUST CALL ME JULIE... I'M BETH'S SISTER, NOT THE MAID HERE!



FRED WAS RATHER DULL ACCORDING TO MY STANDARDS. FOR EXAMPLE, I KNEW HE WAS TOO HAPPY WITH MY CHOICE OF RESTAURANTS... IT WAS EXPENSIVE...

CHEER UP, HONEY, WE'RE NOT STAYING HERE LONG!

I'M AFRAID TO ASK WHERE WE GO NEXT!



WHICH REMINDS ME... I'VE GOT IRONING PILED UP TO THE CEILING THAT NEEDS DOING, JULIE...

ALL RIGHT, BETH. I CAN TAKE A HINT... I'LL DO IT FOR YOU...



NEXT WAS AN EQUALLY SWANK NIGHT CLUB...

HOME! SO EARLY?

I DON'T KNOW AS I CAN AFFORD ANY MORE, BETH!



THANKS, FRED. CALL ME AGAIN SOMETIME...

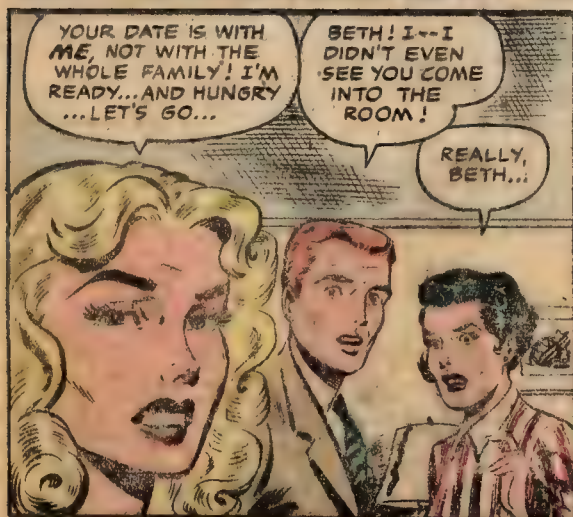
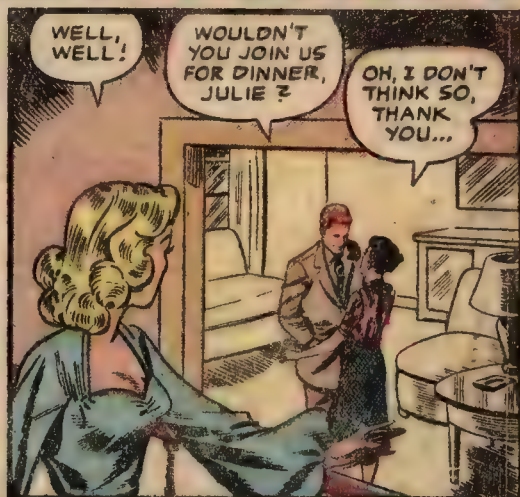
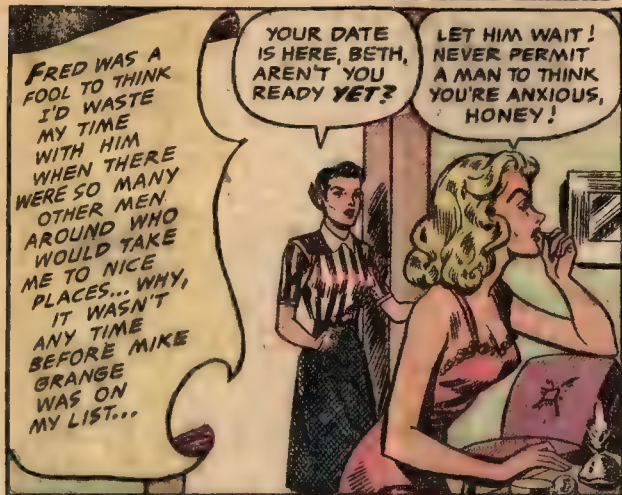
NEXT WEEK? PERHAPS YOU'LL SETTLE FOR A MOVIE, THOUGH?



A MOVIE? NO, THANKS! IF YOU'D LIKE TO CONSIDER THE BLUE FLAMINGO, I'LL CONSIDER THE DATE!

GOSH, BETH, YOU'RE KIND OF EXPENSIVE!





THAT WASN'T A VERY NICE WAY TO SPEAK TO YOUR SISTER, BETH! YOU HURT HER FEELINGS... AND EMBARRASSED BOTH OF US!

SHE'LL GET OVER IT!

BESIDES, YOU ARE MY DATE, AREN'T YOU? I'D JUST LOVE TO GO TO THE PEACOCK ROOM, WOULDN'T YOU?

IT DOESN'T MATTER, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'D LIKE, WE'LL GO THERE...

THIS WAS MORE LIKE IT. MIKE WAS A GOOD DANCER, TOO, EVEN IF HE WAS SO QUIET...

HE'S THE COOL TYPE BUT I'LL FIX HIM! TREATS ME LIKE A STRANGER... I'LL MAKE HIM LIKE ME!

I USED ALL MY POWERS ON MIKE, AND SURE ENOUGH, HE CAME BACK FOR MORE! THIS TIME, I KEPT HIM WAITING ALMOST AN HOUR BEFORE I LET HIM IN FOR THE GRAND SURPRISE...

FINALLY READY?

MIKE! HOW CAN THIS BE? WHY, I HAVE ANOTHER DATE TONIGHT!

IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT YOU INSISTED ON SEEING ME, EH? WELL, GOOD! FRANKLY, I THINK YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SPOILED BRAT!

COULDN'T BE THAT YOU'RE JEALOUS, COULD IT?

STICK AROUND, HERE'S OLD MAID JULIE! SHE'LL HELP YOU PASS THE TIME AWAY! GOODNIGHT, YOU TWO!

NOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

SOMEHOW IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE I FOUND MYSELF SUDDENLY OUT OF MEN... IT WASN'T UNTIL THEN THAT I REMEMBERED MIKE. AFTER ALL, HE WAS NICE, AND HE TOOK ME TO THE PLACES I LIKED... AFTER NOT BEING ABLE TO REACH HIM WITH ALL MY PHONE CALLS, I PAID HIM A SURPRISE VISIT...

HELLO, STRANGER! HOW ABOUT TAKING ME TO LUNCH?

SORRY, BETH, I CAN'T MAKE IT TODAY...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, MIKE! GOODBYE!

THE WORLD CAN'T STOP REVOLVING BECAUSE YOU DECIDE IT SHOULD, BETH!

THAT WHOLE DAY SEEMED UNLUCKY... EVEN IN THE EVENING...

MAKE YOURSELF A BITE TO EAT, BETH, I'LL BE HOME LATER!

AREN'T YOU GOING TO FIX MY SKIRT?

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF, HONEY, I'M IN A HURRY...

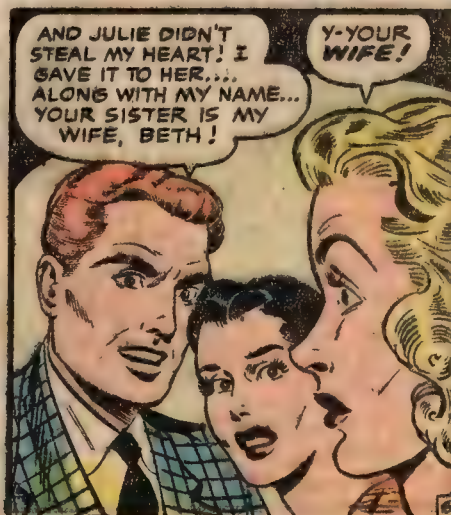
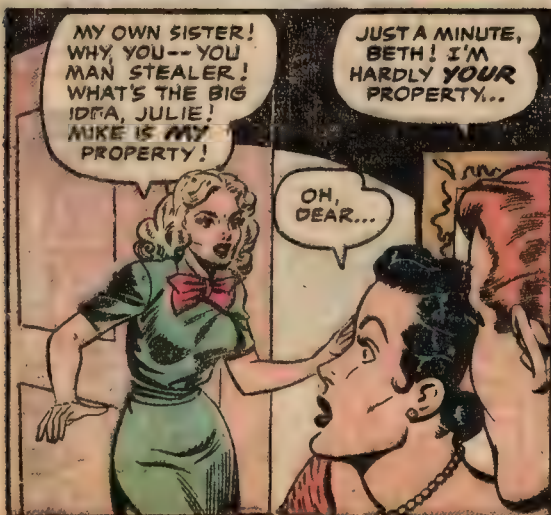
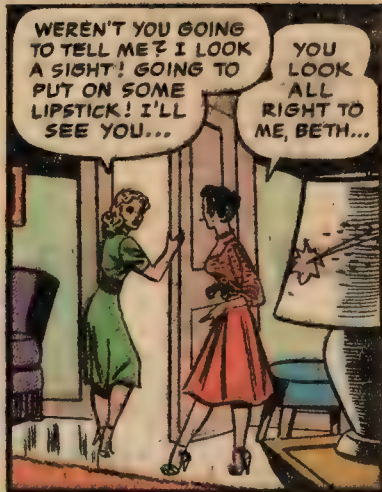
THAT'S A MEAN TRICK! HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TO MAKE FOR DINNER?

EVEN THE PHONE CALLS I MADE BROUGHT ME NO SATISFACTION...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE BUSY?

JUST THAT, BETH... I'M BUSY!

WHAT KIND OF A PLACE IS THIS... ME ALL ALONE HERE! I OUGHT TO LEAVE HOME FOREVER! THAT WOULD SHOW JULIE!



I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EARS! MIKE'S TIRADE SEEMED TO STRIKE AT ME THROUGH A DAZE... JULIE AND MIKE MARRIED!

SECRETLY MARRIED BECAUSE OF YOU! BECAUSE JULIE DIDN'T WANT YOU UPSET... SHE WANTED TO SEE YOU SETTLED DOWN WITH A JOB AND A DECENT WAY OF LIFE!

INSTEAD, YOU KEPT UP YOUR SELFISH ROUTINE! SHE WAS YOUR PRIVATE MAID AND ALL THE MEN YOU COULD ROUND UP WERE SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR SLAVES! THOSE DAYS ARE GONE FOREVER...WE'RE LEAVING, AS OF NOW...

I'VE STALLED MIKE FOR WEEKS, BETH...

LEAVING? YOU'RE LEAVING ME...

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOURSELF FOR A CHANGE! YOU'RE LUCKIER THAN MOST PEOPLE STARTING OUT, YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE APARTMENT YOUR VERY OWN!

I'LL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU, BETH... GOOD LUCK!

W-WAIT!

OH, JULIE...WHAT A TERRIBLE PERSON I MUST HAVE BEEN TO YOU...TO EVERYBODY...YOU'RE SO RIGHT, MIKE...

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TURN OVER A NEW LEAF, DEAR...

YOU DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO BE AROUND FOREVER, DID YOU? THIS IS ONLY GOING TO HELP YOU GROW UP, BETH...

BUT I'LL MISS YOU SO...

WE'RE ONLY MOVING DOWN THE BLOCK! WE'LL SEE YOU EVERY DAY!

SUDDENLY EVERYTHING BECAME CLEAR TO ME... I WAS LUCKY! I HAD TWO OF THE NICEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD IN MY FAMILY... AND A WHOLE WONDERFUL LIFE AHEAD OF ME. JULIE'S HAPPINESS WAS CONTAGIOUS... FROM MY HEART I OFFERED THEM MY CONGRATULATIONS. AND WHEN MIKE TOOK HER IN HIS ARMS, I KNEW I HAD SOMETHING ELSE TO LOOK FORWARD TO, ALSO...A REAL LOVE OF MY OWN!

Nancy Drake...

PERSONAL HEART PROBLEMS

On the Rebound?

Dear Miss Drake: During the past four weeks I have been going fairly steady with a certain boy. I am sure I have fallen in love with this boy, but there is a little obstacle in the way of our happiness. This boy is still in love with a girl who has broken up with him. I think he still thinks of her quite a lot, and while she is still in his mind, I don't think I'll be happy with him. What would you advise me to do?

—G.B.

Dear G.B.: There is always the possibility that you may have caught him "on the rebound" but this should not spoil your friendship. What man—or woman for that matter—does not think about former love affairs. It is up to you to try to make him so happy that he will think less and less about her, until he has almost forgotten her completely—after all, you have only been seeing him for four weeks. You wouldn't like to think that after keeping company with you for some time he could forget you completely in four short weeks.

Nancy Drake.

"Dear John" Letter

Dear Miss Drake: I am in the United States Army serving in France and am writing on behalf of my Buddies and myself. We would like to know why so many servicemen get "Dear John" letters, including ourselves. We write to our girlfriends about every other day but it seems that someone is taking our girls away from us. Can it be these 4-F Draft Dodgers? We can't figure it out. We read your Heart Problems every month and feel that you can help us. We are anxiously awaiting your reply.

—Cpl. J.T.

Dear Cpl. J.T.: There is not much that anyone can do to help you and it is unfair to blame it completely on fellows who are still civilians. After all, the girls must give them some encouragement. However, if a girl is sick, it is far better to find it out quickly,

than after marriage. Secondly, if your girl has fallen for someone else, wouldn't you rather know about it than have her pretend that you were still the only one? Try not to think about it too much. Find ways to amuse yourselves. There are always lots of girls, and when you go back home you may find a girl you like better than the one you lost.

Nancy Drake.

Already Married

Dear Miss Drake: I am very much in love with a girl here in Arizona, and I am sure she loves me too. We would like to get married as soon as possible, but I can't because I am married to another girl whom I don't love. I have often asked her for a divorce, but she won't give it to me. What can I do? Will you please help me?

—E.T.

Dear E.T.: If you really love this girl, then there is one thing you should do. You should stop seeing her until you have succeeded in getting a divorce from your wife. Any other arrangement will bring her unhappiness. Does her family know about your plans? This is a very serious matter and must be carefully handled. If you have not done so already, you should go to her people and tell them all about it, then you should get legal and spiritual advice and try to come to an understanding with your wife.

Nancy Drake.

For Girls 14 and Under

Dear Nancy: I am a girl of 13 and am very much in love with a boy 16. My parents have never met him. My father has talked to him and I believe he likes him, but won't say so. He thinks I am too young to be in love. Should I go on loving him or listen to my parents? Please help me.

—S.G.

Dear S.G.: I receive many letters from girls under 14 who feel they are in love. In my opinion children under 14 are too young to know anything about love. Such affairs

can hardly be more than "schoolgirl crushes." My advice to them all is that they spend more time with their school work and use up their spare time in healthy recreation such as games, etc. Young people should try to get as much education as possible, so that they may be qualified to accept good positions when they become men and women.

Nancy Drake.

Strict Parents

Dear Nancy Drake: I read your Heart Problem every month and you give very good advice to the people who write in. I am 16 and like a boy 18 who is in the Army and he likes me, but he wants to be introduced to my parents when he comes home, which will be in a couple of months, and I'm afraid to introduce him because my parents are too strict. They won't even let me wear lipstick. Do you think I'm too young to wear lipstick and go out on dates with boys? Some of my girlfriends age 14 and 15 can do it, but I can't. Please advise me, I'll be looking for your answer.

—R.V.

Dear R.V.: It is to this young man's credit that he desires to meet your parents and I don't think he will want to see you secretly. Parents sometimes are more understanding than young people realise, and if you tell them about this young man, you may be pleasantly surprised at their reaction. If your parents do not want you to wear lipstick yet, that is not such a terrible thing. No one will think less of you because of that and in a year or so your folks will be more willing to agree to the use of it.

Nancy Drake.

Should She Wait For Him?

Dear Miss Drake: I am 19 and am in love with a boy age 20. He is in the airforce stationed in Alaska. He tells me he loves me and always will and wants me to wait for him until September 1954 when we can be married. Should I wait for him until September, or not?

—E.A.T.

Dear E.A.T.: If you really love this boy there should be no doubt in your mind as to what you should do. During the war years, thousands of young people waited 4 or 5 years for one another, and this young man has asked you to wait less than a year. He is probably very lonely up there, and you can make him very happy by writing him nice long letters three or four times weekly.

If you have too much time on your hands, join some Church group or young people's club and you will find that the time will pass quickly.

Nancy Drake.

Talks About Her

Dear Miss Drake: I recently moved to a larger city than my home town where I met a boy and started going steady with him. After six months he was called into the service. Now every boy in school knows all about me, even those I have never met or seen. They are always talking about me, but I have never learned if what they are saying is good or bad. I almost hate to go to school. I am not a fast girl, but I guess I got the wrong boy friend. Can you tell me what to do?

—Baffled.

Dear Baffled: Why not wait until you know whether the things they are saying are good or bad before you get so upset? Most girls discuss their boy friends, and I think boys discuss the girls they know with one another. As long as you have done nothing to be ashamed of, there is no need to let it bother you. If you ignore it, I think you will find that they will stop discussing you. At your age, you should not take life so seriously. You are young, and there is plenty of time to worry about steady boy friends.

Nancy Drake.

NO REPLIES BY MAIL . .

Miss Drake cannot undertake to answer letters personally, so please do not enclose stamped envelopes with a request for a reply by mail. If you have a problem that you would like to discuss with Nancy Drake, write to her at the address given below. Your reply will be published here, name withheld. Lack of space makes it impossible for all responses to be included in one issue, but no mail is ignored. And remember, all letters are confidential. Address your mail to:

NANCY DRAKE,

PERSONAL HEART PROBLEMS
SUPERIOR PUBLISHERS LIMITED
2382 DUNDAS STREET WEST
TORONTO 9, ONTARIO, CANADA

Learning to Love

I WENT OUT FOR REVENGE,
USING MY LIPS AS A SECRET
WEAPON, BUT I SOON FOUND
OUT I OVERLOOKED A VERY
IMPORTANT FACT... MY HEART
WAS A TRAITOR!

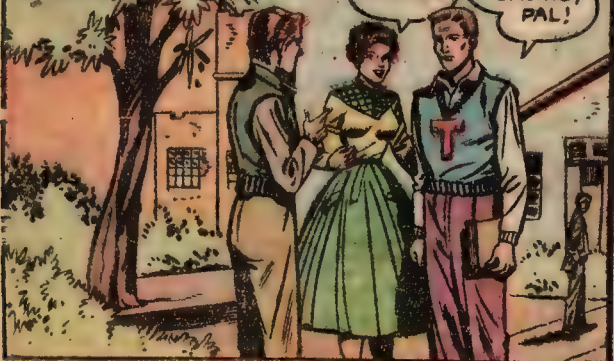


BEING THE MOST
POPULAR GIRL ON THE
CAMPUS HAD IT'S
COMPENSATIONS... BUT
BEING BUZZ WATKINS'
GIRL HAD IT'S DRAW
BACKS...

HI, PEGGY!
GOING TO THE
LIBRARY?

SURE,
COME ON
ALONG!

WE'D LIKE
TO BE ALONE!
THERE'S A
CROWD,
PAL!



EVERY CHARACTER
IN THE SCHOOL
PLAYS UP TO YOU
AND I DON'T
LIKE IT!

WE'RE NOT
ENGAGED,
BUZZ, SO
THAT MAKES
IT MY
BUSINESS!



WE MADE A GOOD MATCH. BUZZ WAS THE CAPTAIN AND HERO OF THE BASEBALL TEAM AND I LIKED THE POWER WE HAD OVER THE OTHERS AS A TWOSOME...

GOOD MORNING! DON'T STOP FOR ME, PROFESSOR BURKE!

MISS SMITH...

I HOPE THAT YOUR TARDINESS IS NOT ALSO A SIGN THAT YOU ARE UNPREPARED IN YOUR CLASS-WORK!

CARRY ON, PROFESSOR, I CAN CATCH UP WITH YOU, DON'T WORRY...

THE **WORRY** SHOULD BE YOURS, YOUNG LADY! OR ARE YOU ATTEMPTING TO PROVE THE THEORY THAT A PRETTY HEAD IS OFTEN AN EMPTY ONE?

THE BLOOD RUSHED TO MY FACE AT THIS STINGING REMARK, AND WHEN THE CLASS WAS OVER PROFESSOR BURKE STRUCK OUT AT ME AGAIN...

I'LL EXPECT YOU TO BE HERE AT THE CORRECT TIME TOMORROW, MISS SMITH...IF YOU PLAN ON REMAINING IN MY CLASS THIS SEASON!

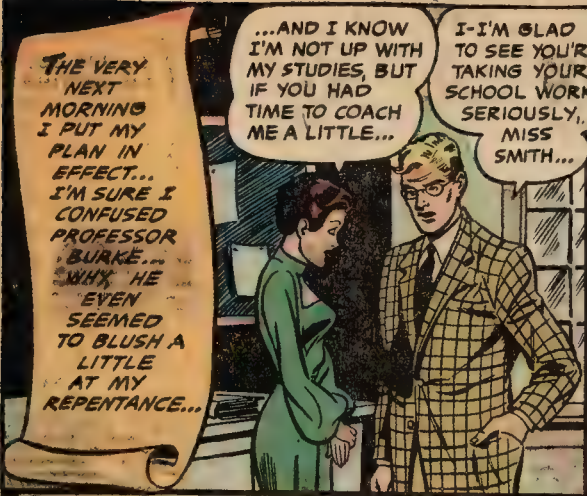
HA! HA!

NO MAN DARED TALK LIKE THAT TO ME, TEACHER OR NOT! I WAS FURIOUS THAT HE HAD MADE ME THE LAUGHING STOCK OF THE CLASS, AND I BURNED WITH THE THOUGHTS OF SWEET REVENGE...

YOU GAVE THE WHOLE SCHOOL A LAUGH TODAY, BEAUTIFUL! BROTHER, DID BURKE TAKE YOU OVER THE COALS!

SO WHAT...

DON'T WORRY, I'LL HAVE MY DAY WITH PROFESSOR BURKE! I'LL BEAT HIM AT HIS OWN GAME! HE'LL BE THE FOOL...



THE VERY NEXT MORNING I PUT MY PLAN IN EFFECT... I'M SURE I CONFUSED PROFESSOR BURKE... WHY HE EVEN SEEMED TO BLUSH A LITTLE AT MY REPENTANCE...

...AND I KNOW I'M NOT UP WITH MY STUDIES, BUT IF YOU HAD TIME TO COACH ME A LITTLE...

I-I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE TAKING YOUR SCHOOL WORK SERIOUSLY, MISS SMITH...

OH, I AM! DO YOU THINK YOU COULD SPARE ME AN HOUR OR SO EVENINGS?

Y-YES, I COULD ARRANGE MY TIME, I GUESS...



FOR A FEW NIGHTS I REALLY PRETENDED TO STUDY... THEN MY VICTIM BECAME MORE AT EASE IN MY COMPANY AND I KNEW IT WAS TIME TO STRIKE...



HAVE I IMPROVED ANY, PROFESSOR?

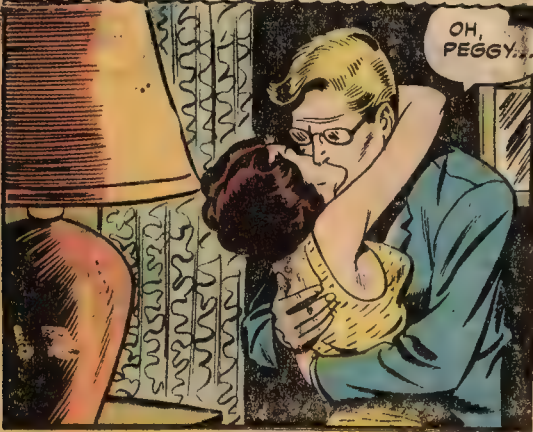
Y-YES, PEGGY, YOU HAVE...



YOU'RE NOT ANGRY WITH ME ANYMORE?

I WAS NEVER ANGRY... I WAS DIS-APPOINTED...

I COULD SENSE HIM FIGHTING AGAINST KISSING ME, BUT AS I LEANED FORWARD HE GOT TO HIS FEET AND PULLED ME TOWARD HIM WITH TREMBLING HANDS, I OFFERED MY LIPS... WILLINGLY AND HIS ARMS CRUSHED ME TO HIM...

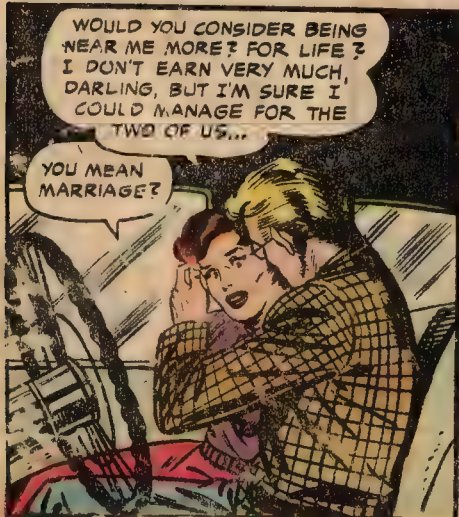
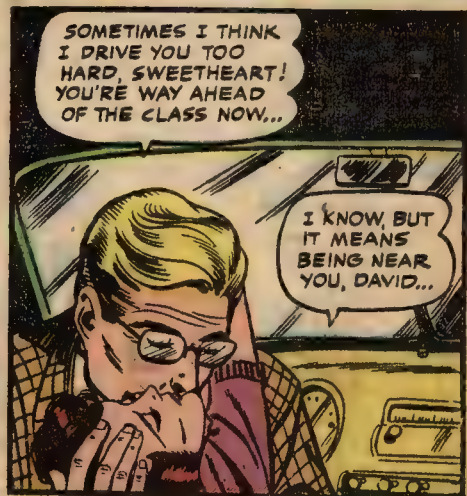
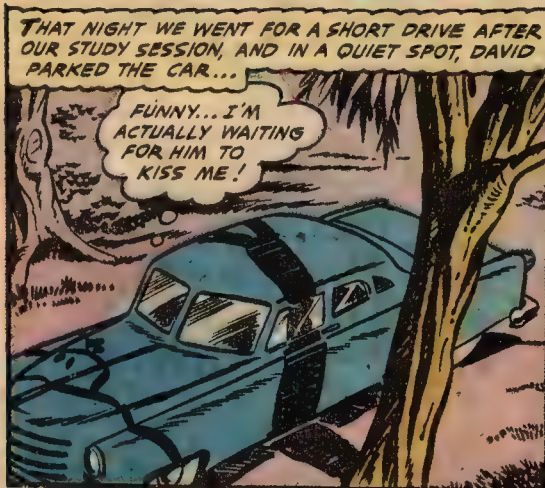
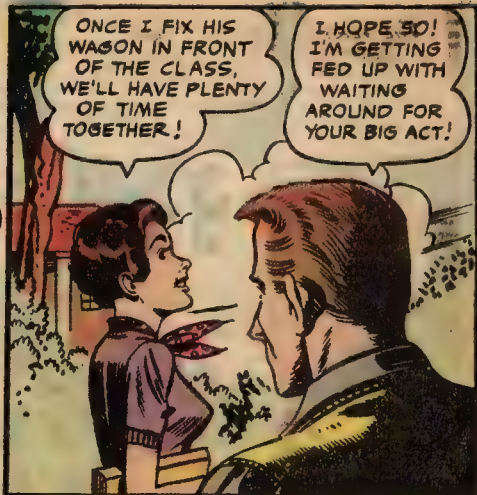
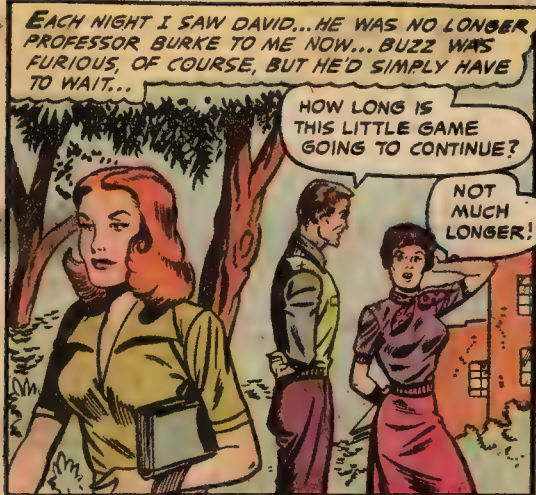


OH, PEGGY...

I NEVER WANTED YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH I CARED... FROM THE FIRST DAY YOU WALKED INTO MY CLASS...



MY SECRET MARRIAGE



I LOOKED INTO HIS EYES ONCE MORE AND SAW THE KINDNESS, THE GOODNESS AND THE LOVE... THEN I WAS CERTAIN, I WAS IN LOVE... BUT WHAT A LITTLE BEAST I HAD BEEN... I BURST OUT INTO TEARS AND TOLD DAVID THE WHOLE UGLY TRUTH...

Y-YOU SEE... I'M HORRIBLE!

I DON'T CARE HOW IT ALL STARTED, DEAR...

...AS LONG AS YOU LOVE ME NOW...

BUT IT'S AGAINST THE SCHOOL RULES FOR US TO MARRY! HOW CAN WE?



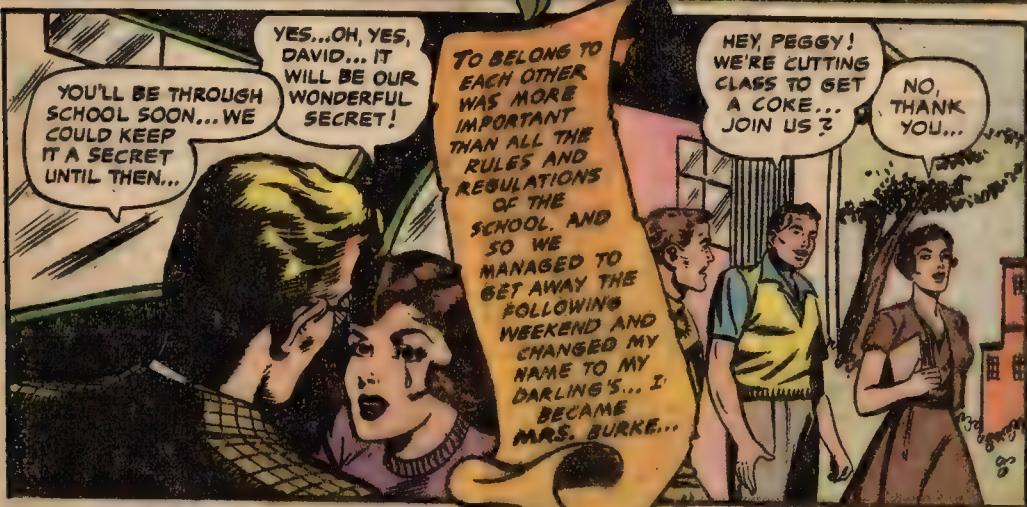
YES...OH, YES, DAVID... IT WILL BE OUR WONDERFUL SECRET!

YOU'LL BE THROUGH SCHOOL SOON... WE COULD KEEP IT A SECRET UNTIL THEN...

TO BELONG TO EACH OTHER WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ALL THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE SCHOOL. AND SO WE MANAGED TO GET AWAY THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND AND CHANGED MY NAME TO MY DARLING'S... I BECAME MRS. BURKE...

HEY, PEGGY! WE'RE CUTTING CLASS TO GET A COKE... JOIN US?

NO, THANK YOU...

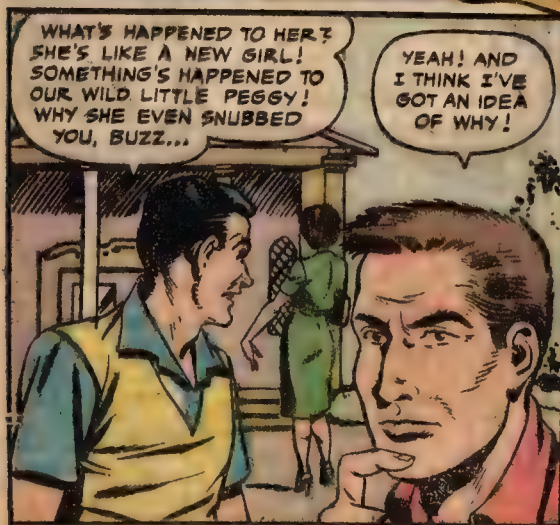


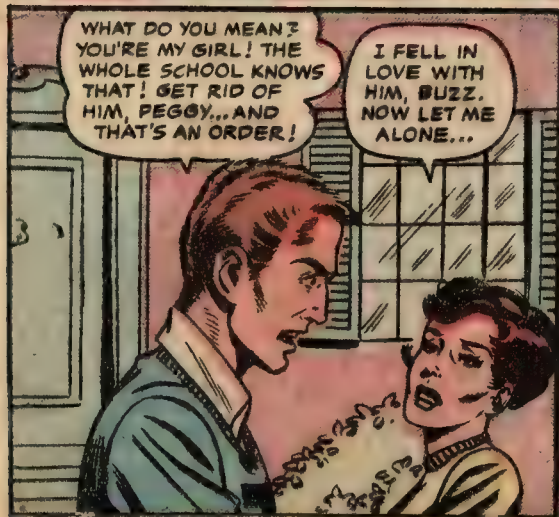
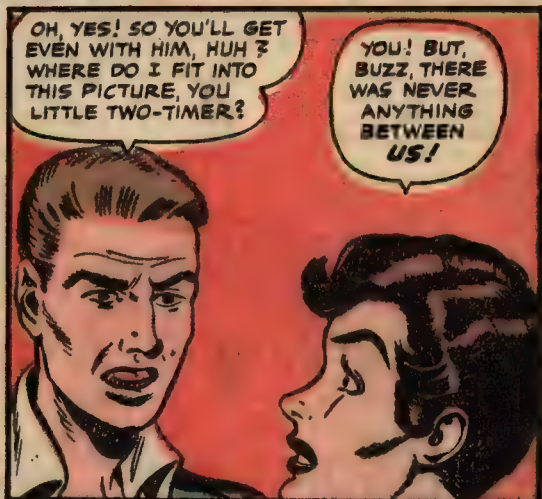
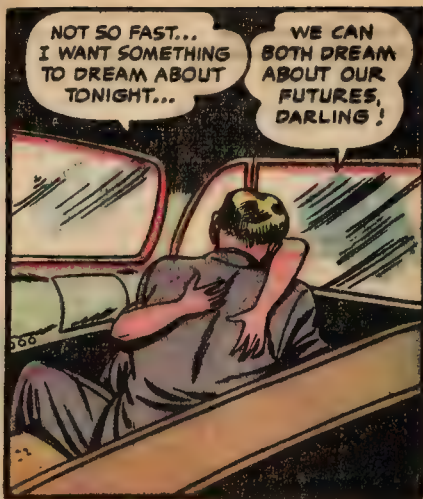
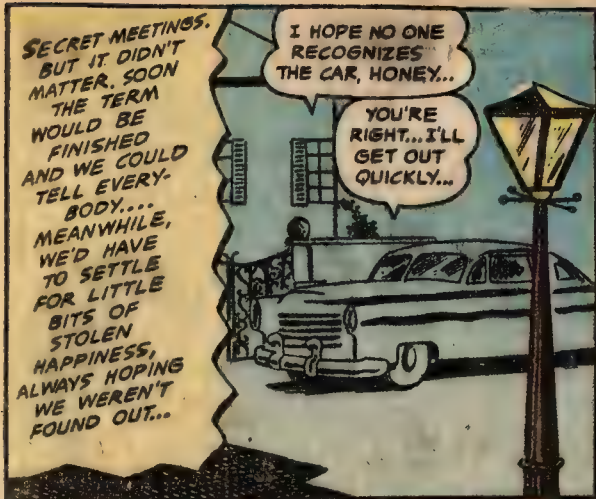
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER? SHE'S LIKE A NEW GIRL! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO OUR WILD LITTLE PEGGY! WHY SHE EVEN SNUBBED YOU, BUZZ...

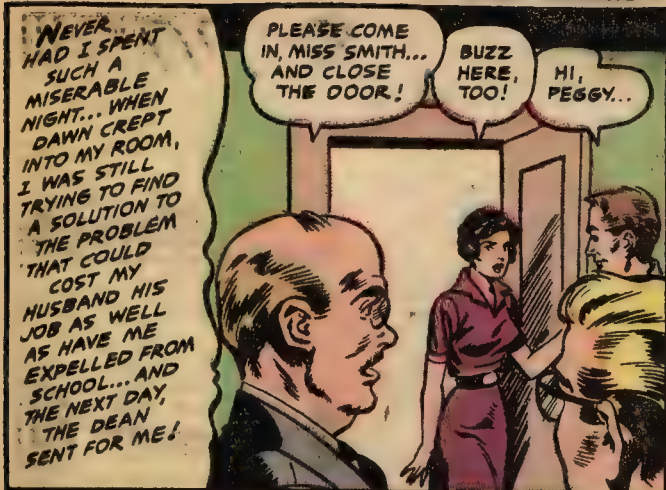
YEAH! AND I THINK I'VE GOT AN IDEA OF WHY!

I'LL MEET YOU TONIGHT, DARLING...USUAL PLACE, OKAY?

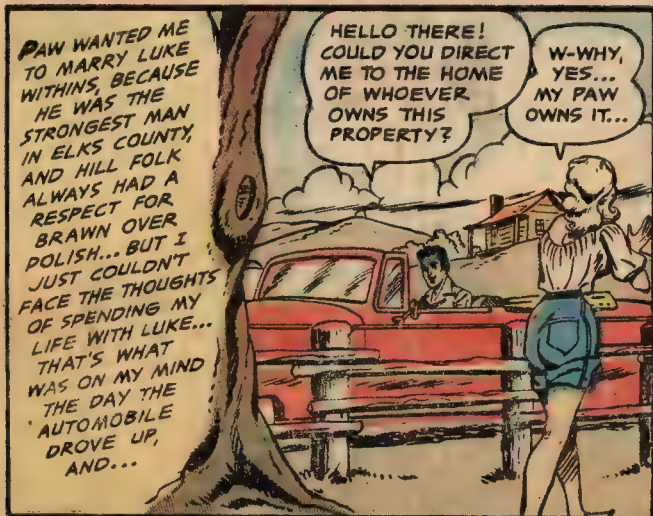
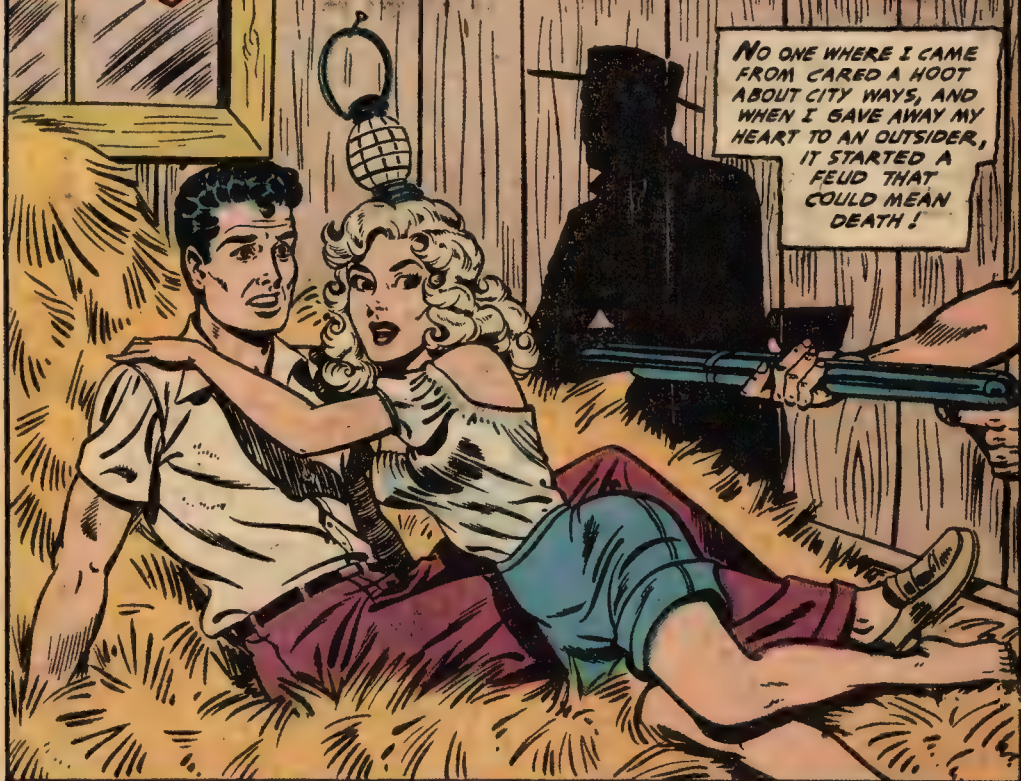
YOU'VE GOT A DATE, MRS. PROFESSOR!







Love in the Hills



IT WAS A SMALL CABIN WE USED TO LIVE IN, BUT THERE WAS NO TELLING HOW PAW WOULD REACT. HE HAD NO HANKERING FOR CITY PEOPLE AROUND HIM... MY HEART HAD SPEEDED UP AT THE SIGHT OF THAT MAN... I WANTED HIM FOR A NEIGHBOR...

BUT WHY, PAW? WE COULD PUT THAT RENT MONEY TO GOOD USE...

I KNOW... THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I'D LET HIM RENT...



THEN I'LL GO AND TELL HIM TO COME IN... HE'S WAITIN' IN THE CAR DOWN THE ROAD...

NOT SO FAST! I AIN'T SAID YES, YET! YOU'RE MIGHTY ANXIOUS TO HAVE A STRANGER 'ROUND, GIRL!



...BUT I WARN YOU! KEEP AWAY FROM HIM! HE'S NO BUSINESS OF YOURS, UNDERSTAND!

THEN YOU DO SAY YES, PAW! I'LL TELL HIM...



HIS NAME WAS JOE BANNER AND THERE HAD NEVER BEEN A MAN LIKE HIM IN SPRUCE HILLS... EVERY SECOND I COULD GET OUT OF PAW'S SIGHT, I SPENT WATCHING IN AWED WONDER...

WHY CAN'T I DO THAT? HE'S WONDERFUL!



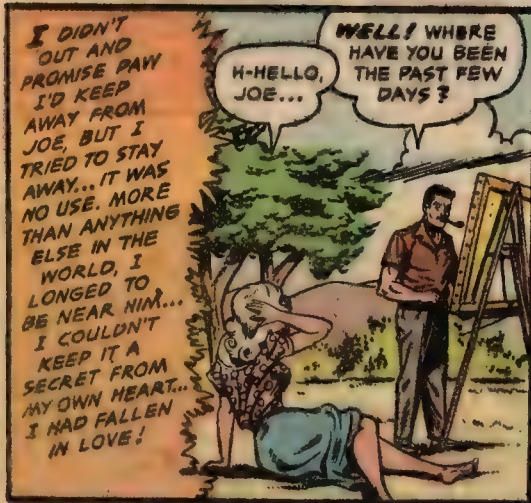
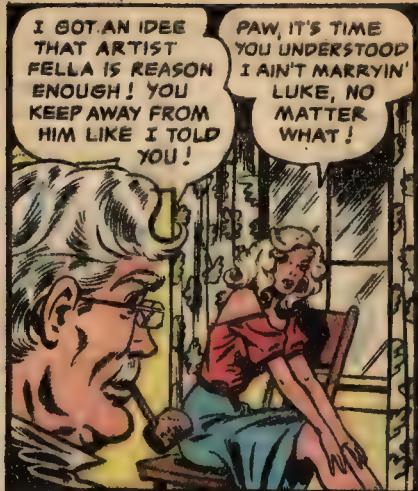
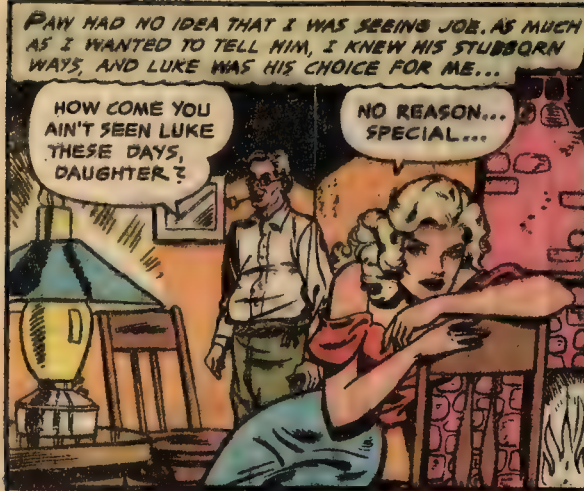
HELLO THERE, JESSIE! I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO SHOW UP TODAY! I WANT TO ASK YOU IF YOU'D POSE FOR ME? YOU'RE THE PRETTIEST GIRL I'VE EVER SEEN!

ME? WHY SURE... IF YOU THINK I'M PRETTY ENOUGH...



HE THINKS I'M PRETTY AND HE'S SO HANDSOME! NEVER MET A MAN WHO PUTS ON A CLEAN SHIRT EVERY SINGLE DAY! AND ALWAYS WEARS SHOES... HE'S SO NICE!







I WAS FIGURING OUT HOW TO TELL PAW ABOUT US, THAT EVENING, WHEN LUKE MADE AN UNEXPECTED APPEARANCE AT OUR CABIN...

BEEN TOO LONG AWAY FROM YOU, JESSIE...

I'LL TAKE A STROLL WHILE I SMOKE MY PIRE...



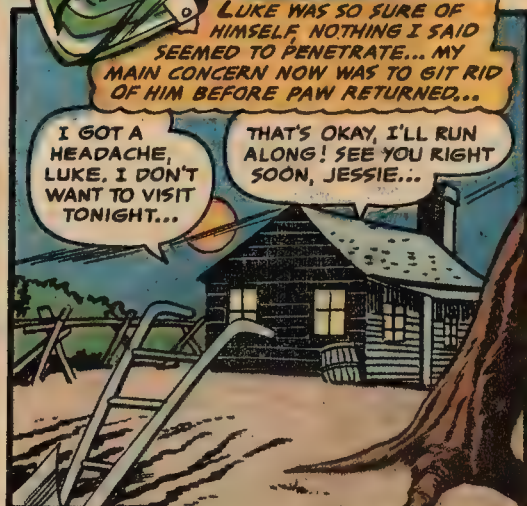
BEEN SHARPENING UP ON MY STRENGTH... LOOKY HERE!

STRENGTH ISN'T EVERYTHING, LUKE! BESIDES, THAT'S MY NEW CATALOGUE!



PICKIN' OUT YER NEW DRESS FOR THE STOMP, HONEY? I BEEN MEANIN' TO ASK YOU...

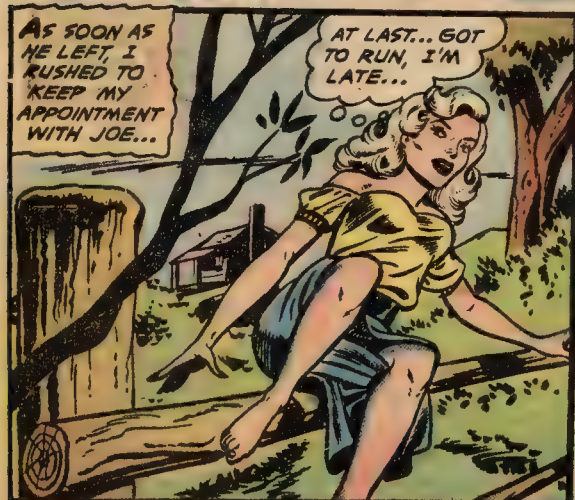
I AIN'T GOIN' TO THE STOMP, LUKE... WITH YOU!



LUKE WAS SO SURE OF HIMSELF, NOTHING I SAID SEEMED TO PENETRATE... MY MAIN CONCERN NOW WAS TO GET RID OF HIM BEFORE PAW RETURNED...

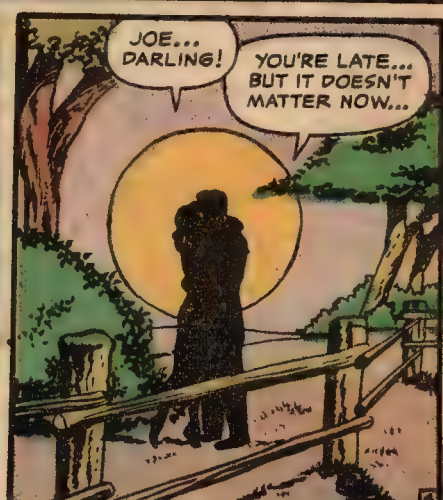
I GOT A HEADACHE, LUKE. I DON'T WANT TO VISIT TONIGHT...

THAT'S OKAY, I'LL RUN ALONG! SEE YOU RIGHT SOON, JESSIE...



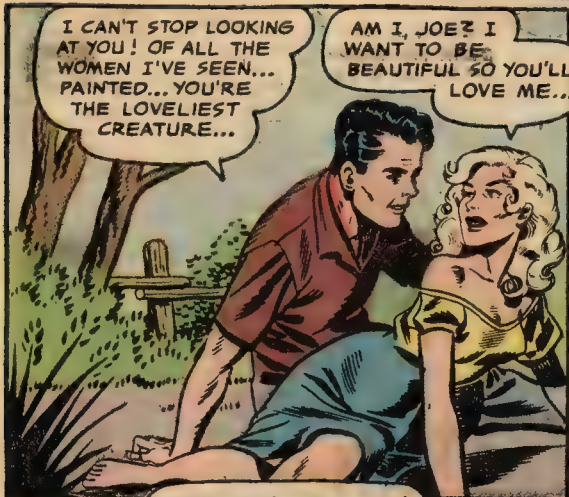
AS SOON AS HE LEFT, I RUSHED TO KEEP MY APPOINTMENT WITH JOE...

AT LAST... GOT TO RUN, I'M LATE...



JOE... DARLING!

YOU'RE LATE... BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW...



I CAN'T STOP LOOKING AT YOU! OF ALL THE WOMEN I'VE SEEN... PAINTED... YOU'RE THE LOVELIEST CREATURE...

AM I, JOE? I WANT TO BE BEAUTIFUL SO YOU'LL LOVE ME...



LOVE YOU? I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU... WILL YOU MARRY ME, JESSIE?

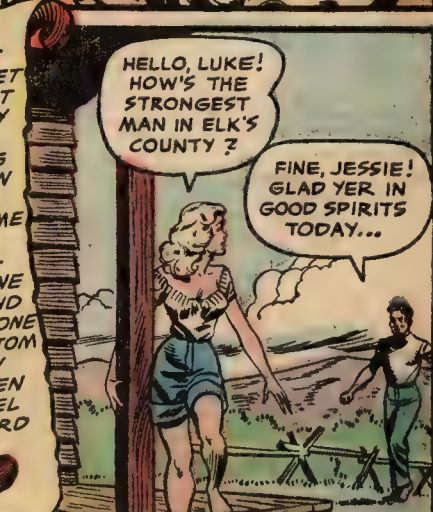
I'D CONSIDER IT A RIGHTFUL HONOR, JOE...



I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL PAW, BUT I'LL FIGURE A WAY...

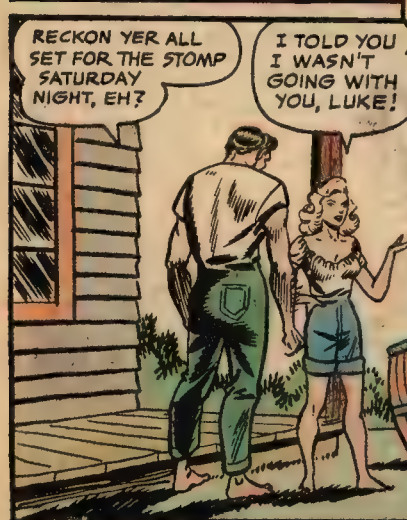
THEN DON'T TELL HIM! WAIT UNTIL I FINISH MY WORK AND WE'RE READY TO LEAVE THE HILLS... TOGETHER!

AND SO I GOT MYSELF A SECRET HUSBAND! I FELT RE-BORN! EVERY THOUGHT AND ACTION DURING THOSE NEXT FEW DAYS SEEMED FILLED WITH SOME MYSTERIOUS, JOYOUS SIGNIFICANCE. SOMEONE LOVED ME... AND I LOVED SOMEONE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HAPPY HEART... IT EVEN MADE ME FEEL KINDLY TOWARD POOR OLD LUKE...



HELLO, LUKE! HOW'S THE STRONGEST MAN IN ELK'S COUNTY?

FINE, JESSIE! GLAD YER IN GOOD SPIRITS TODAY...



RECKON YER ALL SET FOR THE STOMP SATURDAY NIGHT, EH?

I TOLD YOU I WASN'T GOING WITH YOU, LUKE!



YOU BEEN AVOIDIN' ME, JESSIE! YOR MY GIRL IN THESE HILLS, DON'T FORGET THAT! I'M NOT ASLEEP... I KNOW PLENTY OF GOIN' ON'S! NO ONE'S CUTTING IN ON LUKE WITHER'S PROPERTY... OR THEY'LL GIT HURT!

BRUTE...

I DIDN'T TELL JOE OF LUKE'S THREAT, BUT MORE IMPORTANT, I ALSO HADN'T TOLD PAW OF MY MARRIAGE, AND I WAS FOREVER MAKING EXCUSES TO GET AWAY AND MEET MY HUSBAND...

I'LL BE BACK SOON, PAW, I'M GOING FOR A LITTLE WALK...

MIGHTY LOT OF FOOTWORK GOIN' ON WITH YOU LATELY, GIRL!

DARLING...THINK I WASN'T COMING? PAW WAS ASKIN' QUESTIONS...

YOU'RE WORTH WAITING FOR ANY TIME!



I'LL TELL HIM ANY TIME YOU'D LIKE, HONEY, ONLY IT WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE IF WE HAD OUR PLANS ALL READY TO MOVE... THAT WILL BE IN JUST A FEW DAYS!

THEN WE'LL WAIT, AS WE INTENDED TO! WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN A FEW DAYS MAKE?

I'LL BE SO HAPPY WHEN WE CAN **REALLY** BE HUSBAND AND WIFE, DARLING! WHEN THE WORLD WILL KNOW HOW LUCKY I AM...

I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS, AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU...



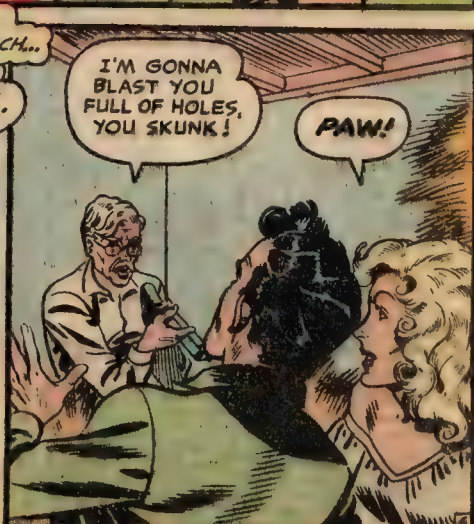
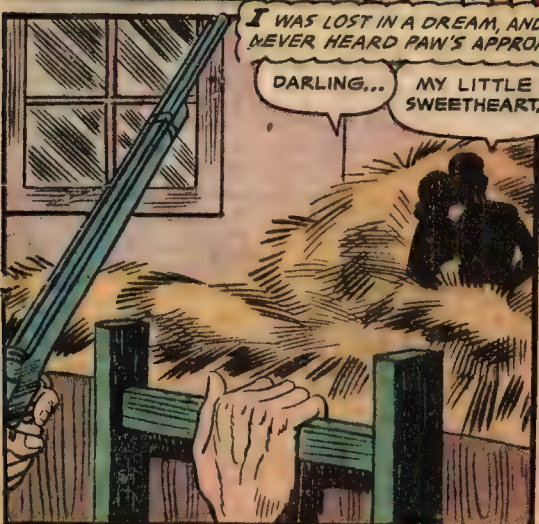
I WAS LOST IN A DREAM, AND NEVER HEARD PAW'S APPROACH...

DARLING...

MY LITTLE SWEETHEART...

I'M GONNA BLAST YOU FULL OF HOLES, YOU SKUNK!

PAW!



PAW'S HANDS TREMBLED WITH RAGE... I STARED IN TERROR AT THAT GUN, KNOWING HE'D PULL THE TRIGGER WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE, IF JOE MOVED...

MAKIN' UP TO LUKE'S PROMISED, EH? SHE'LL NOT HAVE ANY WEAKLING FOR A MAN AS LONG AS I'M AROUND, EVEN IF YOU HAVE TURNED HER FOOLISH HEAD!

D-DON'T PAW...



JOE'S NO WEAKLIN'! YOU SHOULD SEE THE WORK HE DOES! FROM DAWN UNTIL DARK!

STRONG...LIKE A NEW-BORN KITTEN! NO ARTIST HAS ANY BRAUN!



AND THAT'S NOT ALL... HE EARNS GOOD MONEY FROM HIS WORK, TOO! MORE THAN ANY HILL FELLA!

I'D LIKE TO SPEAK FOR MYSELF IF I MAY!



WE'LL GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO SPEAK! WE'LL SEE WHAT YOUR FISTS CAN SAY FOR YOU WHEN YOU SETTLE UP WITH LUKE WITHERS!



WORD OF THE DUEL SPREAD ACROSS THE HILLS LIKE A BRUSH FIRE! THE DAY TURNED INTO A HOLIDAY AS LUNCHEES WERE PACKED AND THE FOLKS GATHERED TO MAKE A DAY OF CELEBRATION... THEY WERE FULLY PREPARED FOR LUKE TO GIVE JOE THE TROUNCING OF HIS LIFE...

IMAGINE ANY CITY MAN DARING TO FACE UP TO LUKE! IT'LL BE A SWIFT BATTLE!

WELL... WHERE IS HE?

AND A BLOODY ONE!



DON'T WAIT, JOE! RUN AWAY! HE'LL KILL YOU! PLEASE, DARLING!

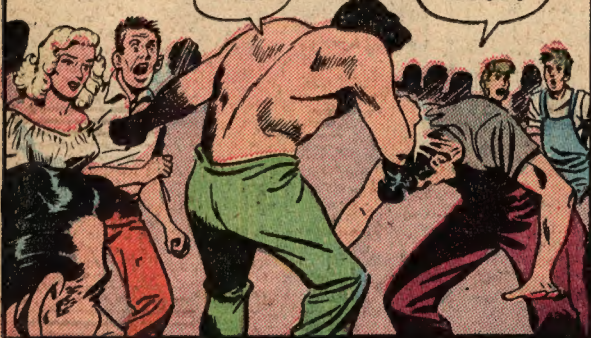
I CAN'T, HONEY...AFTER ALL, I'VE GOT TO EARN SOME RESPECT FROM THOSE PEOPLE!



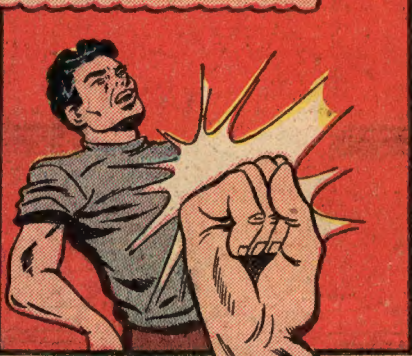
SUDDENLY LUKE SHOWED UP. THE EVIL GRIN ON HIS BRUTE FACE WAS SIGN ENOUGH OF HOW HE FELT ABOUT FIGHTING TOM...MY HEART FROZE AS HE SWUNG...

STEAL MY GIRL, WILL YA...

SHE'S NOT YOUR-- OOOOF!



JOE STRUCK BACK AGAIN AND AGAIN BUT HIS BLOWS DIDN'T HAVE THE POWER THAT LUKE THRASHED ABOUT... AND FINALLY HE STUMBLED BACKWARD... I FELT AS THOUGH I, TOO, HAD BEEN STRUCK...



THAT TIME JOE WENT DOWN, BUT LUKE WASN'T SATISFIED!

STOP HIM! STOP HIM!

NO DIRTY PLAY!

JOE!



JOE SPRUNG UP WITH THE SUDDEN STRENGTH OF A MOUNTAIN CAT...

I DON'T FEEL LIKE DYING, YET!

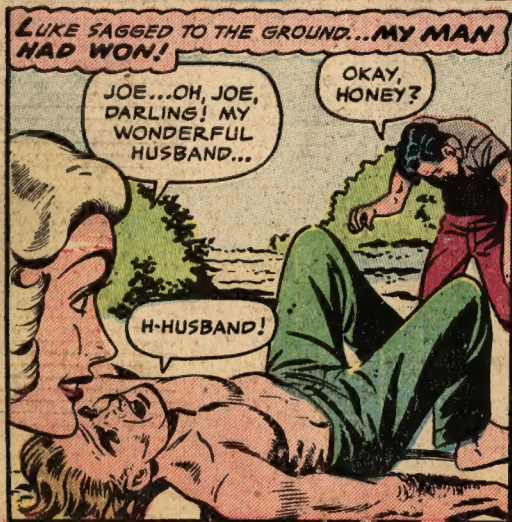


LUKE SAGGED TO THE GROUND...MY MAN HAD WON!

JOE...OH, JOE, DARLING! MY WONDERFUL HUSBAND...

OKAY, HONEY?

H-HUSBAND!



WAL, I'LL BE! HUSBAND, IS IT? I'LL GIVE YOU CREDIT, YOU PICKED OUT A REAL MAN, BY GOSH! DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD IT IN YE, YOUNG FELLA! GLAD TO BE PAW TO A MAN WHO CAN MANAGE HISSELF!

SEE, JESSIE! I KNEW THAT FIGHT WOULD BE WORTH A BLACK EYE OR TWO!



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